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She lived through a most eventful period of history. She remembered the Mexican War, and every incident of this present war was of absorbing interest to her, yet age touched her lightly, and in talking with her one often recalled the quotation—

“Time cannot wither, nor custom stale, her infinite variety.”

No mere description can fully reveal her charm, but no one who knew her, ever forgot her, for

“Nature made her what she was,
And ne’er made sic another.”

Such a career is an inspiration.
Valiant and useful, hopeful and radiant, her unquenchable Spirit lives on immortal.

WILLIAM Mc WHIR,

An Irish Friend of Washington.

BY WILLIAM HARDEN.

Senator George F. Hoar, in his “Autobiography of Seventy-Five Years,” says: “In my younger days there were among my kindred and near friends persons who knew the great actors of the Revolutionary times and the time which followed till I came to manhood myself.” Though born at a much later date than Mr. Hoar, this writer has had experience of a like kind. He knew and talked with one man whose intimate association with General Washington was a cherished recollection during the remaining years of his life. That man was the subject of this sketch, and it is hoped that a recital of his diversified experiences may prove of interest to some who turn over these pages.

In the year 1759 there lived in the parish of Moneyrea, in Ireland, a prosperous farmer named James Mc Whir, who had married a young woman named Jean Gibson. Of the several children born to them William first saw the light of day on the 9th of September of that year, and the parents being persons of deep piety decided that one son should be brought up and educated with the settled purpose of entering the ministry in the church of their ancestors, that is the Presbyterian, and the decision pointed to William as the one to be so honored. As a child he had the misfortune to

be attacked by the smallpox through which he lost an eye, and nearly lost his life. Always unattractive in appearance, this loathsome disease made him more homely during the remainder of his long life than he otherwise would have been. He told this story in corroboration of the statement just made, and the pleasant manner in which he told it was evidence of the fact that he realized its truthfulness. He said he was stopped on the road somewhere in Ireland by a woman who, after scrutinizing his countenance, addressed him thus: "Sir, you are the ugliest man I ever saw! Your face looks as if the D——I had been thrashing peas on it!"

The boy's early education was received at a private school near his home, from which he went to one of a higher order in Belfast. He had as a close companion at the latter an unruly lad, with results not calculated to develop the traits of character looked for in one set apart for preaching of the Gospel. At the age of nineteen he was sent to the University of Glasgow, where, as required by the Synod of Ulster of candidates for the ministry, he spent three sessions, but it is certain that even then he did not fully realize the importance of the promise he had made to his parents as to the way in which his future life was to be spent. Notwithstanding this, after his university course he was received under the care of the Presbytery of Killileah, in the County of Down, passing successfully through his trials and examinations, and receiving his license to preach the Gospel on Christmas Eve, 1782; but his ordination by the same Presbytery took place on the 25th of September, 1783.

Having mentioned the fact of Mr. Mc Whir's apparently thoughtless action in becoming a clergyman without the realizing sense of the sacredness of the calling, we will just here, rather out of place, mention another rather important matter occurring nearly thirty years after his ordination. The statement following is made on the authority, and in the words of, his step-grandson, the Hon. Edward J. Harden:

"An event now occurred in the life of Mr. Mc Whir, which, to those who have followed his history to this point, will be a matter of no little surprise. Notwithstanding he had always been a minister, in regular standing, of the Presbyterian Church, he had been, even from the time that he commenced his education, privately a Unitarian. Having occasion to re-examine the Scriptures, about the year 1812, with a view to prove their Divine authority, he was led to take a new view of the doctrines which they contain, and, at no distant period, became thoroughly satisfied that the

creed which he had before only **professed** to receive, really embodied the true sense of the Word of God. This change of religious opinion led of course to a corresponding change in his preaching, which did not escape the observation of those to whom he ministered."

At the early age of about twelve years his attention was called to Jonathan Carver's "Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America," which he read with avidity. That book had a wonderful effect on the mind of the youthful reader, and the impression received of the character of the people of the country and the opportunity for there doing good and bettering his condition decided him to cross the ocean and make a home there. Having received the equipment for a professional career, and his mother having died, he sailed from Belfast for Philadelphia, with the consent of his father, shortly after his ordination. Possessed of letters of introduction to some distinguished people, he met with a cordial reception and received promises of aid in his search for a place where he could pursue his calling.

In the case of Mr. Mc Whir, as in many others, his life work was to be of a different line from that which he set out to follow. Although always ready to preach, and really doing much in that way, he was, from the time of his landing in America until his death, pre-eminently a teacher of youth, and, as such, he had few who were his equals, fewer still were his superiors.

He was no laggard. He wanted to do something, and the sooner the opportunity to get down to business came the better pleased he would be. He had, before leaving Ireland, had some assurance that there might be an opening for him at Alexandria in Virginia and a few weeks after his arrival at Philadelphia he received notice of his appointment as the head of an established and prosperous academy in the Virginia town. The institute was honored with the patronage of General Washington whose two nephews were among its pupils, and then began the friendship between the young clergyman and the great soldier and statesman of which the former was justly proud and of which he boasted during the whole of his long life. Mr. Mc Whir's connection with the academy at Alexandria lasted about nine years, during which time he saw much of Washington, visited him frequently at Mount Vernon, and corresponded with him to a considerable degree. The reverend gentleman's account of his first visit to the General described in his diary and more than once before made public, deserves a place in this sketch, and is as follows:

"A few days after General Washington's return to Mount Vernon, I visited him in company with a countryman of mine, Col. Fitzgerald, one of Washington's Aides. At the dinner table, Mrs. Washington sat at the head, and Major Washington at the foot—the General sat next, Mrs. Washington on her left. He called upon me to ask a blessing before meat. When the cloth was about to be removed, he returned thanks himself. Mrs. Washington, with a smile, said, 'My dear, you forget that you had a clergyman dining with you today.' With equal pleasantness he replied, 'My dear, I wish clergymen and all men to know that I am not a graceless man. He goes on to say, 'I was frequently at Mount Vernon and saw him frequently at Alexandria, nor did I ever see any person, whatever might be his character or standing, who was not sensibly awed in his presence, and by the impression of his greatness. The vivacity and grace of Mrs. Washington relieved visitors of some of that feeling of awe and restraint which possessed them. He was uniformly grave, and smiled but seldom, but always agreeable. His favorite subject of conversation was agriculture; and he scrupulously avoided, in general society, topics connected with politics, or the war, or his own personal actions.'"

The letters passing between Washington and Mr. McWhir were many. The latter, by his will left to his step-grandson, Edward J. Harden, as a specific legacy his writing-desk, book-case, trunks, all of his papers, and one-half of his library. Among the papers were all the letters written to him by General Washington. It is unfortunate that, among the disasters caused by the War of Secession they were destroyed when Sherman's army took possession of Savannah. Let it not be understood, however, that this was the work of the enemy. It is supposed that the letters were among papers considered as family documents, and therefore strictly private and confidential, left behind by the owner, with instructions that they be committed to the flames whenever the city should be entered by the Federal army. One of Washington's letters, relating to the education of his nephews while at Alexandria Academy, appeared in the Sparks edition of "The Writings of Washington," vol. 10, page 37, but will bear repetition here:

"Sir:

"New York, 12 October, 1789

"I have received your letter of the 18th ultimo, and am glad to learn from it that my nephews apply with diligence

to arithmetic and English composition. These are two branches in which I have always thought them deficient and have ever been pressingly desirous that they should be made well acquainted with them. George may be instructed in the French language, but Lawrence had better apply himself for the present to his arithmetic, writing, and composition.

"As you have failed in your endeavor to obtain a mathematical instructor, it is not probable that any success would attend an advertisement in a paper here. However, I shall have one inserted. I can give no particular opinion respecting the boy whom you represent to be an uncommon genius. But I would cheerfully give any reasonable encouragement towards the cultivation of talents which bid fair to be useful.

"I am, Sir, etc."

At the time the foregoing letter was written the recipient had been in charge of the Alexandria school about six years. He remained there three years longer, and that proves the fact of his long and intimate association with the man who had led the American armies to victory in the seven years struggle for independence. It was then not six months since Washington had been inaugurated as President of the United States for the first term. Who was the boy represented as "an uncommon genius?" That we may never know; but we may indulge in the belief that both of the gentlemen did not let the matter drop, but that they saw to it that the talented youth was substantially assisted in having his talents cultivated.

In the absence of proof to the contrary, we may suppose that Mr. Mc Whir's leaving Alexandria was caused by the desire to do better in a financial way. Indeed, we have the statement from one who doubtless heard him say it, that "his expenses of living in Alexandria were too great to justify the expectation of being able to lay up any part of his income" and that accordingly he "was inclined to listen to an application" to go elsewhere.

While at Alexandria he probably had little opportunity to preach, as we have no record of such service at that period of his life. It would seem that he had a desire to make some use of the education and preparation for the work of a pastor through which he had gone, for, upon invitation from a warm friend to visit Augusta, in Georgia, in 1792, with a view of taking charge of a church and school there, he determined to look the field over, and made the journey on

horseback. He was not satisfied with the life at Alexandria, but was not pleased with the prospect that confronted him on his arrival in Augusta. He returned to Alexandria, but only for a short time. Convinced that a change was desirable, he went to Savannah, and thence to Bryan County, to visit some friends, and while there received a call from the citizens of Sunbury, then a place of some importance, to take charge of both the Church and Academy, then vacant. He accepted the call, and then began the long life of honor and usefulness in a field for which he was peculiarly fitted and which he filled admirably for many years.

He was a man of remarkable energy, so much so that he almost broke down through the combined efforts in teaching and preaching, and after five years of constant labors and exercising of the brain he was forced to retire to his plantation nearby, which he had been enabled to purchase through the success he met with and to which he gave the name of Springfield. He was not, however, allowed to enjoy the pleasure of retirement for any length of time. At the urgent request of neighbors and friends, he opened a select school at Springfield which increased beyond his expectation. Here also he preached the Gospel on Sundays, and again, after a few years, he had to give himself a rest. Shortly after his removal to his plantation he married the widow of Colonel John Baker of Revolutionary fame. He never had children of his own, but treated those of his wife with all the love and kindness that he could have shown had they been his offspring.

His ability to teach lay particularly in his knowledge of the Classics. He was a thorough Greek and Latin scholar, and he had a remarkable talent for imparting to his pupils the principles upon which those languages are founded, so that a large percentage of them left him at the close of their schooling well grounded in those branches which were his specialties.

He was very careful in the selection of his assistants. In order to secure the best that could be had, it was his custom to examine all applicants so strictly that many who would have been glad to secure a position were unwilling to be put to the test through fear of being rejected. It is said that he related to a friend the following incident:

One of the objects of his visit to the old country in 1820 was to secure an assistant for his school at Springfield, and he inserted advertisements in several newspapers, but he was about to sail for America without having succeeded in finding one who met with his requirements in all particulars.

The day before the date of the sailing of the vessel from Liverpool, while the schoolmaster was engaged in packing his trunk, a young man presented himself as an applicant, but Mr. Mc Whir told him he was too late; that he did not have time to examine him; and that he would choose the assistant in the United States on his return there. The young man was very much disappointed saying he was anxious to go to America and had set his heart on obtaining the chance offered in the advertisements he had seen, and asked to be examined then and there. Seeing anxiety stamped upon the countenance of the youth, Mr. Mc Whir stopped the work upon which he was engaged, put the applicant to the test in all branches except Latin, thinking that then the strain would tell on him, and that the trial would result in his break-down; but, greatly to his surprise, after picking up a book lying among the articles to be placed in the trunk and handing it, opened at a certain page, to him, and directing the gentleman to put into Latin the English words indicated, the task was promptly and accurately done, and then and there the assistant was secured and sailed the next day with the head-master for his new home beyond the sea.

As a sample of the way in which Mr. Mc Whir set to work to get the help he needed, an advertisement of that sort, taken from a newspaper of 1799, is here given:

"ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS.

"I will give one hundred guineas a year to a gentleman of Character and abilities, who is disposed to remove to the flourishing and fertile State of Georgia, and engage as an Assistant in my Academy.

"He must write an elegant hand, be a complete accountant, and well acquainted with the practical branches of the mathematics.

"The situation is as healthy as any in this, or perhaps, any other State in the Union, an undisputable proof of which is, that my family consists of nearly fifty white persons, and almost twelve months have elapsed since any Physician has been called to visit it.

"Letters, post paid, directed to me, Sunbury, Georgia, will receive a decisive answer in less than forty days from their date, if they contain satisfactory proof as to the character and abilities of the applicant.

Sunbury, Georgia, April, 1799.

WM. Mc WHIR."

He was always ready, notwithstanding the fact that he never had a regular charge as pastor, except for a short while at Sunbury, to be used in pastoral work and in the pulpit. He frequently preached to the congregation in the old Midway Church and in Savannah and elsewhere. His services in performing the marriage ceremony were often in demand, as the newspapers of the time testify. By holding meetings in the McIntosh County Court House, nearly twelve miles from Darien, about the year 1809, he was instrumental in organizing a church. That church was finally moved to Darien where Mr. Mc Whir had preached some time before the transfer was made. In both places he supported himself almost entirely, as his teaching paid him well, wherever he had a school.

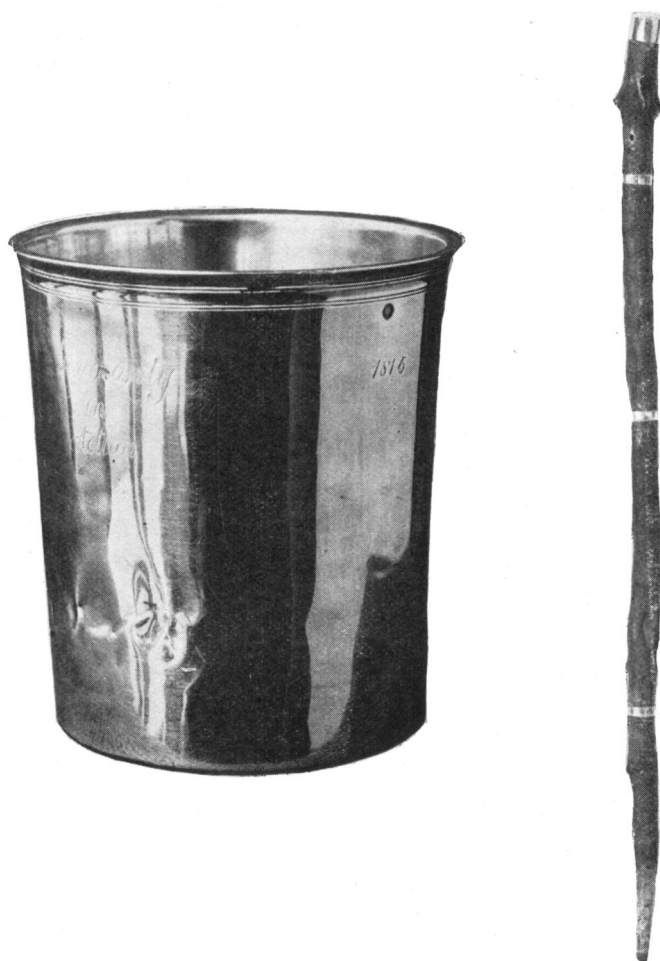
After relinquishing the charge of the Sunbury Academy for some years, and having met with the loss of some fourteen thousand dollars, through the great storm of 1804, at the urgent solicitation of the people of Liberty County, he again became the principal of that institution, and succeeded in bringing it up to the standard it maintained during his former incumbency. His health becoming impaired, he again gave it up in a few years, but for a third time retired, with the intention to abandon teaching as a profession, though long afterwards receiving pupils whom he taught privately.

In his life in Liberty County he was closely associated with a fellow countryman from Ireland, the Reverend Dr. Murdock Murphy, the regular pastor of Midway Church, and the friendship of these two men was sincere, affectionate, genuine, and of lasting duration. In the year 1815 Dr. Murphy presented his friend with a drinking cup which is now owned by this writer. It is in shape just like an old-fashioned tumbler, and, besides the date of presentation, 1815, bears on the outside these three significant inscriptions:

"Charity	"Liberality	"Generosity
in	in	in
Thought"	Word"	Action"

and on the bottom: "Peace and Plenty."

The writer has also the walking cane of Mr. Mc Whir. It is not known where or how the original owner obtained it; but it is a curiosity in its way, and was probably carried by him wherever he went for many years, perhaps including his visits to General Washington, at Mount Vernon. The gold head has engraved on it, in monogram, "W. Mc W." and



DR. WM. Mc WHIR'S SILVER CUP
AND WALKING CANE.

it has three silver bands, on which appear respectively the words "Faith," "Hope," "Charity."

About the year 1819, he went to New York, to test the merits of the Lancasterian system of instruction, at that time the subject of much interest, in which cause he was aided by the distinguished Judge Ambrose Spencer and by the more distinguished De Witt Clinton, then Governor of New York. And just here it is perhaps the proper thing to quote what others have said concerning his qualifications and successful career in the matter of teaching. Says one well fitted to express an opinion on the subject:

"The name of no man who ever lived in Georgia was more intimately identified with the cause of education, unless the late venerable Moses Waddel be an exception. As a teacher, his chief merits were thoroughness of instruction and the most exact discipline, such as would, in these days, be esteemed too rigorous. He never enjoyed much reputation as a preacher, owing, no doubt, to the want of ready eloquence and the almost entire absence of that faculty of the mind called imagination. Nature and education seemed to have fitted him for the school-house."

Another has placed these words on record:

"Two generations sat at the feet of this venerable preceptor. Fathers and sons in turn responded to his nod, and feared his frown. Although

'A man severe he was, and stern to view,'

so impartial was he in the support of whatever was just and of good report, and so competent and thorough as a teacher, that for more than a quarter of a century his numerous pupils found in him, above all others, their mentor, guide, and helper in the thorny paths of knowledge. Strongly did he impress his character and influence upon the generations in which he lived, and his name and acts are even now well remembered."*

Mr. Mc Whir's wife died on the 16th of December, 1819, and it so affected him that he was advised to take a long rest from his labors and to get away from the scenes of his prolonged and happy married life. He therefore took that opportunity to pay a visit to his only brother, then living in Ireland, and to look upon the last resting place of his parents. His diary, kept during this long trip, is in the possession of this writer, and contains much interesting matter concerning places he visited, and persons he met, and some

*This was in connection with the Sunbury Academy.

extracts from it will now be made. Just before leaving the United States he had attended the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, as a Commissioner from the Presbytery of Harmony, of which he was a member. He was proud of his connection with the General Assembly, and in the diary mentions the fact that on several occasions while abroad he spoke, on invitation, of the action of that body on various matters.

He arrived at Liverpool on Sunday, July 16, 1820, stopped at the Waterloo hotel, and in the evening went with the proprietor and his wife to a church for the blind, concerning which he wrote: "Here my heart was rejoiced to see 120 of those to whom, as Milton expresses it, 'Light, the prime work of God, is extinct,' and who 'are dark amid the blaze of noon,' enlightened by the glorious rays of the Gospel, and comforted by the kind hand of Christian charity, and cheered with the hope of a blessed immortality. Never was I more delighted with music than in hearing their melodious voices unite in celebrating the praises of Him who hath called them from darkness to marvelous light."

The next day he called upon Mr. Robert Bolton who did not wait long to return the visit, but exchanged the compliment next day and persuaded Mr. Mc Whir to be his guest during his stay in the city. During Mr. Bolton's visit, Mr. Maury, the American Consul called and spent an hour with the reverend gentleman. While at Mr. Bolton's he "dined with a company of the very first stamp which he had invited on my account; among them was Mrs. Mather, and her two amiable daughters, distant relatives of the great and good Cotton Mather of America." Again, he remarks, "Mr. Bolton, I ought to have mentioned, conducted me to the Athenaeum, the first public library ever established in England, and that which has given rise to similar institutions in London, Bristol, Bath, and other places. This library consists of upwards of 10,000 books, many of them very rare, valuable and ancient; some manuscripts, before printing was invented, and some modern works, bound more elegantly than any I ever before have seen. The books are not permitted to be taken out of the library, but there are elegant reading rooms to which the members have access the whole day. This causes the books to be much more clean than they would otherwise be."

His account of the great Liverpool dock is interesting. He thus wrote on this subject:

"Mr. Bolton also walked with me all around the New Dock, a most astonishing work which is carried on with great spirit by the Corporation of the City. It is 500 yards long, very broad, and at least 40, perhaps 50 feet deep, some parts of it cut out of solid rock, and where it is not the sides and bottom are lined with hewn stone, neatly and closely cemented with mortar, or bound with iron."

He had letters of introduction to the Rev. Mr. Raffles whom he heard preach and who asked Mr. Mc Whir to address the scholars of his Sunday School. He called the place of worship a chapel, and explained that "Presbyterian places of worship are not honored with the appellation of churches." His health was not at that time at all good, and he decided "to visit the celebrated waters of Cheltenham, 150 miles from Liverpool, to try their efficacy," but before going he spent an evening "with Mr. Priestley, a kinsman of Dr. Priestley, a very pious, Godly man, with whom I was much pleased, as well as with his amiable lady. He informed me that Dr. Priestley was the only person of the name that he knew of who was of Socinian principles, and that he lamented that he was not as good a theologian as philosopher." That was on the 24th of July, 1820.

On the 26th he dined with three gentlemen, two of whom he named, Mr. Sherry and Dr. Stewart, and said of them "They are all men of science, especially the former (name not given) and Dr. Stewart are men of profound literature. Much, very much, is to be gained by their society; and they were both very solicitous in their inquiries about the state of religion, the progress of the arts and sciences, etc., in America. And having so recently visited several of the United States, and been in the principal Atlantic cities, the information I was able to give them, from actual observation, was more interesting, especially as I had attended Congress for some days, and had myself the honor of being a Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States. Dr. Stewart very politely offered to introduce me to the great and good Dr. Chalmers, should I visit Glasgow. This I considered a very great favor, and thankfully acknowledged it as such."

On the 27th he set out from Liverpool for Cheltenham, expecting to stop in Birmingham, and his descriptions of places on the way are truly interesting. On the 28th he rested at the last named place, of which he said:

"After breakfast took a walk to view the place which is large and prosperous, and entirely a manufacturing town. The streets are narrow and by no means clean. Butchers'

shops are in every street, and here and there vegetable and fruit stalls scattered up and down the streets. The smell is intolerable, and such filth, in a southern climate, would assuredly create yellow fever.

"I first visited the Eagle Foundry, the oldest establishment in Birmingham, where castings of the largest size are made. I saw how it was done. While I was present some small articles were cast. Some single pieces weigh from 3 to 4 tons. Here I met with Mr. Thos. Gibson, one of the largest manufacturers of almost every kind of iron ware. He makes iron wheel-barrows, gates, fences for fields and gardens, chairs, settees, porches, and porticos for houses, bridges of almost any size, etc., etc. He very obligingly showed me the whole concern, and took me to a place where the prospect both of town and country, was really grand as well as beautiful. Elegant houses, placed in good order in that quarter of the town, were surrounded by beautiful seats highly improved, with stately houses at equal distances, every one of which had attached to it a fine garden and orchard, and in many places fine meadows and lawns covered with sheep, and in some places fat cows with udders distended with milk. Beyond these were rising hills and lofty mountains, raising their towering tops to the clouds—yea, far above the clouds of smoke and vapor which arose from the innumerable furnaces, founderies, and potteries in and about Birmingham."

On the 29th, he entered this record in the journal:

"At eight in the morning I set out for Cheltenham, an outside passenger, that I might better see the country, which is very hilly indeed, rather mountainous and naturally barren; but mostly under cultivation and in many places rendered productive by manure and high cultivation. We stopped several hours at a very fine town named Worcester. I was so unwell I could not eat dinner. But exerted myself to view the Cathedral, one of the most ancient buildings in England, and very large and magnificent. It is upwards of 300 feet long, proportionably wide, and more than 70 feet in the story. Within its walls and under its roof rest the ashes of several Kings. And, as the custom of old was, the upper part of the tomb is a likeness of the deceased in polished marble, in full dress, or clad in armour agreeable to the fashion of the times, laid prostrate on the grave or tomb, in full size. And curious indeed are some of the dresses, and wonderfully ponderous the armour of ancient times. I lament now that I did not allow myself more time to take down some of the superscriptions and have a more

accurate account of this very ancient and venerable edifice. The pulpit, its staircase railing and canopy, are hewn out of one piece of solid marble. My curiosity led me to ascend it and examine it minutely. And really when I reflected on the antiquity of the building, its magnificence, and the length of time that it had been devoted to the worship of Him who is and was and is to come, the same yesterday, to-day and forever—Himself without variableness or shadow of turning, amidst all the changes and vicissitudes of this world, I was struck with solemn awe, and think I was in proper frame of mind to worship the God of my fathers to whom that sacred place no doubt had been the gate to heaven. True, worship little better than idolatry had often been performed within these walls; but dare we say that if the hearts of the worshipers were sincere, in the sight of the all-seeing, heart-searching and rein-trying God, that the sacrifice was not acceptable? I dare not say so, because the Sacred Oracles forbid me to judge unfavourably in this case."

The same night he arrived at Cheltenham, and in the morning of the next day, the 31st, he went to the springs of which he had this to say:

"After breakfast I strolled out and accidentally directed my course to the celebrated Springs. And I can candidly say that in my whole life I have never beheld a more charming place. I shall not attempt to describe the elegant buildings, fine gardens, and delightful shady walks which all at once presented themselves to my astonished view. I say astonished, for no person had given me any intimation of the elegance of the place, and the high state of improvement to which it had already attained; for it is only a place of yesterday, although it is now become so famous and so much noted for salubrity, gaiety, and fashion. Hither the nobility, as they are called, dukes, lords, earls, and such sort of folks come for health, more for pleasure, and some fine ladies and gentlemen to exhibit themselves. The men have something in them which I cannot describe—very different from American gentlemen. The ladies are much more affable, but not so handsome as the men. I did not see anything to incline me to think with Guthrie that a well-bred Englishman is the finest gentleman in the world. And among one hundred and thirty or forty persons in one house, at such a place, where so much brilliancy of dress was displayed, some intellectual excellence was to be expected; but I saw nothing of it. There was no appearance of profanity; neither was there of religion. Amongst other great men the Duke of Gloucester was there. I often saw him.

He appears to be very simple, and indeed it is said he really is so."

The first Sunday he spent in Cheltenham he was so ill that his physician forbade his accepting an invitation to preach for a Mr. Brown, but he went to church, and this is his record of the manner in which he joined in the service:

"I attended Divine service, and, for the first time in my life, received the sacramental bread and wine on bended knees. Oh that the humble posture of my body may have assisted me to humble my soul before God, under a deep conviction of sin, and that I may be enabled to walk in newness of life to the glory of God!!!"

On the 10th of August he talked to an audience on the subject of religious societies in America, including in his address the progress made and the interest taken in Sunday School work. His hearers were, from his account, very much interested, and somewhat surprised, by certain statements from his lips. He ended his record of the incident with this paragraph:

"I told them that the very first people in our country send their children to Sunday Schools, both by way of example and to learn lessons of piety and habits of religious observance of the Sabbath; and the sons and daughters of our most wealthy citizens found their only claim to nobility on the glorious privilege of being employed by the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords to train up His own children for glory, honor and immortality, and thus be prepared to enjoy their heavenly inheritance. Some of the supercilious Royalists do not like to hear this; but I felt it to be my duty to say the truth, and have nothing to hope or fear from them, only from neglecting to tell them the truth."

The next day, the 11th, he made note of the fact that his physical condition, which he had hoped would be bettered by the use of the Cheltenham waters, had not improved, and added:

"In the course of the day I received a letter from the Honorable Mr. Maury, enclosing an introduction to the American envoy extraordinary in London, and another to a Mr. Williams; but all this did not make me feel well."

He had a delightful experience on the 12th of August, 1820, described by himself as follows:

"Today a little after twelve it was proposed to me by a very agreeable party to make one with them to go about six or seven miles into the country to see the remains of a Roman Villa, as it is supposed, which had been discovered about two years ago in the parish of Great Wilcombe in the

county of Gloucester. And I am rejoiced that the jaunt was proposed to me. For it really afforded me much pleasure. The day was fine, the road good, the country through which we passed beautiful, highly cultivated, teeming with plenty, and in many places the reapers busily employed in cutting down as fine wheat, barley, peas, oats, etc., as my eyes ever beheld. And the company was truly agreeable and social, three ladies and four gentlemen, one lady from the East Indies, one from France, daughter of Dr. Thomas, and the other an English lady, all well bred and intelligent. One gentleman, a physician from the Indies, another an officer belonging to the Bengal Engineers, the other a gentleman from the West Indies, an invalid, and myself from the U. S. of America.

"The Roman Villa, interesting itself from its antiquity, becomes more so from the situation in which it is placed, which is truly romantic. It is situated on the brow of a hill, not very lofty itself; but surrounded on all sides by mountains, high and fertile, affording fine pasture which is everywhere covered with fine fat sheep. In many places are delightful fields of grain, on places so steep that one would scarcely suppose it possible to cultivate them on account of their declivity. Several of the apartments of this supposed Villa have been cleared of the rubbish which had fallen upon them, and in many places mosaic pavements of small pebbles, or rather rocks, of various colours, white, blue, gray, and perhaps mixed colours, in which are represented beasts, birds, fishes, crabs, etc., are very plainly to be seen. Small thatched roofs are placed over these beautiful pavements and on the old walls which appear to have been a little repaired before the covering was put over them. We gazed with delight upon these ancient remains of ingenious mechanism. We are informed that some pieces of ancient Roman coin were found in digging up the ruins, which leave no doubt on the minds of those who have seen them, that they are remains of Roman buildings. Baths, both hot and cold, are very plainly to be traced in the ruins.

"The mind is struck with reverential awe when beholding the workmanship of hands which many centuries ago have mingled with the clods of the valley, and the works themselves, together with their possessors, entirely unknown. And this naturally leads us to reflect that we too, must soon go hence and be no more seen among men, and that the places which now know us, shall know us no more.

We returned a little before 6 P. M., all much pleased with our excursion, as well as with each other."

The delightful experience of suddenly, and without previous notice, meeting a friend in a foreign land, and in the midst of entire strangers, is thus noted in his journal under date of Sunday, August 13, 1820.

"I got out of bed in time to make preparation to go to the Spa, and also prepare for public worship. While I was sitting at breakfast with some friends, a young gentleman came up to me and said, 'Am I addressing Mr. Mc Whir?' I said, 'that is my name,' and who was it but a son of Captain Stiles, of Savannah, who had come to Fisher's late the evening before. I was as glad to see him as if he had been a relative, and he apparently overjoyed to see me. There was not a person in the house whom either he or I had ever seen before, only that we had seen each other, and in the evening a brother of Mr. Stiles who had been traveling in France, in company with his brother, arrived at Fisher's."

The same day his diary ended with this entry:

"This evening after tea, the boarders assembled together to hear me read the 'Narrative of the State of Religion in the United States,' as published by the General Assembly in May last. I was listened to with great attention, and concluded with prayer, and when I had done, many of the ladies and gentlemen, both old and young, surrounded me, shook hands, and thanked me for the information I had given them, which afforded them so much gratification. And most assuredly it afforded me sacred pleasure to see so much interest taken by so gay an assembly in a matter of such high importance."

On the 15th he gave an account of a trip to the town of Gloucester:

"I took a trip to Gloucester, an ancient town 9 miles to the west of Cheltenham and about the same size. There is in it also a Spa well and elegantly fitted up. The water seems to be saline, and very similar to the Cheltenham water. We visited the Cathedral which is said to have been built in 1300, or thereabouts. It is evidently very ancient and very magnificent. Its length 444 feet, breadth 90, and its height very great. We went to the top of the steeple by 277 steps, the climbing of which exhausted me much. Here lie the remains of many ancient Kings and Nobles of civil and ecclesiastical dignity, in tombs ornamented with elegant sculpture and statues in the costume of the times in which they lived and died. In this town is a Gaol which is said to be the best in the Kingdom, but unfortunately it was

the time of the Assizes, and we could not be admitted to see the inside of it. It stands on the bank of the river Severn which runs along the western side of the town of Gloucester.

"We visited the Pin Manufactory which is very curious indeed. Men, women and boys are all engaged in making this small ware, for small wages. None of them can earn more than 6 pence a day, although they work from six in the morning till eight at night. The woman who puts the pins in paper told me that she gets only 2½ pence for putting 24 sheets of pins in paper. This really requires diligence to make anything at all."

While Mr. Mc Whir was on this foreign trip, and when in and about the City of London, the trial of England's queen, Caroline, was in progress, and he was in the great excitement which existed at that time. His remarks relative to the event are not without interest. These are his words:

"17th. Was an important day at London. This day came on the trial of the Queen for adultery. A trial, in the opinion of some, big with the fate of the Nation. The public mind being very much excited, I, even as a stranger, felt no small interest on this interesting occasion. That the happiness of a people, the very foremost to support the Gospel, should be endangered by the imprudence, to say the least of it, of two individuals, neither of whom is remarkable either for piety or prudence, is to be lamented."

On the road from Bath to London he passed through a delightful section of country, at one time observing a large number of deer which forced him to wish that some of his friends in America, who were sportsmen, could see them and "have a crack at them," he added, "But this would have been almost as bad as treason, indeed worse than to curse the King at the present moment while the Queen's trial is going on in the House of Lords." On the same trip, on the 23rd of August, he had the experience which he thus described:

"Betwixt Bath and London we passed nearly 40 stage coaches drawn by four horses each, apparently going at the same rate with us, and we traveled the 108 miles, from a little after 6 A. M. till a little after 5 P. M., and stopped 15 minutes to breakfast and 30 minutes to dinner, besides changing horses about nine or ten times.

"At last we entered the gate of the great City, but before we had proceeded far, were obliged to stop, until an immense multitude, such as my eyes never before beheld,

would pass. All were trying to see who could get nearest the Queen, who was returning in state, from the House of Lords where her trial was going on from day to day. Her Coach passed close by us and we had a full view of her, but Lady Hamilton, who was in the coach with her, concealed herself. We were stopped by the multitudes passing rapidly along, for almost two hours, crying with loud voices 'God Save the Queen!' 'God bless Queen Caroline!' 'Long live our beloved Queen!' Hats everywhere waving and handkerchiefs streaming in the air, and every minute from the crowds 'Hats off!' 'Hats off!' I whispered to a gentleman near me in our coach, 'Suppose we, as loyal subjects of his majesty George the 4th, say aloud 'God save the king!' He replied that 'he supposed it would hazard our lives.' And this I firmly believed. But even if it had not, my loyalty to his majesty was not so great as to have spent my breath in this way.

"About 7 o'clock the torrent of the crowd seemed to have passed and we began to move forward with some thousand others, some in coaches, some in post chaises, gigs, and on horseback, but more on foot, who had, like ourselves, wished to go on, when lo! another crowd presented itself to our view rending the air with huzzas of 'Clear the way for the loyal subjects of Her Majesty coming with an unanimous address from———!' Then we were obliged to come to a full stop, until I know not how many coaches, each drawn by four beautiful horses, and containing some four and some six gentlemen with ribbons in their breasts, passed us, after which we at last got to the coach Inn."

On the way to London from Bath he saw things which drew from him expressions of admiration as follows:

"On our way to London we passed through a country the hills of which are chalk, covered over in most places with earth, some deep and some shallow. In one place you see at a great distance the figure of a very beautiful monstrous white horse on the side of a fine green hill. I could not tell what to make of it at first view, nor did I like to ask, till a passenger asked me if I saw it. I answered yes, and he told me that the gentleman to whom the estate belonged had employed an artist to have the earth removed from the surface of the chalk rock in that form. We also passed another, but by no means well done. We passed the house in which the great and good Mr. Addison lived and died, a few miles from London. And not far from his former seat is the residence of Dr. Herschel a few rods from the road we were traveling. We very plainly saw the huge platform on

which he erects his telescope from time to time to view yonder worlds entirely invisible to the naked eye and of which the greatest astronomers are only able to discover as much as is sufficient to convince them more fully how little they know even of those heavenly bodies which with great exertion they are enabled to discover.

"We passed through Hounslow Heath, which is a beautiful place, uncultivated and unfenced. I believe it is what is here called a royalty; but what in America is called a Common.

"All along the road, for six miles before we come to the City, as far as the eye can see is thickly inhabited and cultivated like a garden, indeed the greater part is laid out in gardens, or fields which are planted with garden stuffs.

"About 15 miles from the City Winsor Castle presents itself to view. A great mass of ancient Gothic buildings, apparently verging to decay; unless they are soon repaired, it is said they will be entirely useless as many of them already are."

Mr. Mc Whir did not return to America until autumn in the year 1821. In the meantime he went to Scotland, where he met Dr. Chalmers, and attended the sessions of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and he visited Ireland, his native land, and staid in the place of his birth and saw the graves of his parents.

He briefly described some of the sights of London, but we will not here quote further from his diary, except what he said as to a visit to the theatre in London and his account of the resting place of father and mother at Moneyrea.

One evening, having nothing else to occupy his time, he decided to witness a dramatic performance, and he entered this description on the pages of his journal:

"This evening presented the best opportunity of effecting an object which I had long contemplated, namely, to visit the theatre, that I might really see and hear and know, from actual observation, whether the stage be really as corrupt, immoral and as dangerous as divines and moralists have represented it to be; or whether, from the too general character of theatrical performances, as well as the tenor of many of the pieces which they exhibit on the stage, rigid moralists had not represented the thing in worse characters than it deserved. Perhaps candor would here oblige me to say that curiosity also somewhat induced me to go, not having seen a theatrical performance for more than 40 years, except such as had been executed either by my own pupils, or those of other academies. * * * These, and the like cir-

cumstances, inclined me to hope that on actual observation I might find it not quite as bad as it is said to be. But here, alas! I was miserably disappointed. I saw virtue and religion turned to contempt and ridicule; the very best sentiments of the best authors selected for profane mockery; and the most dangerous sentiments of the most deistical writers approved and applauded. Dueling, or murder, is represented as being honorable; seduction as laudable; falsehood and even perjury as venial; and, in one word, integrity as dishonorable. I really cannot see how any modest woman or man can dare to go to these scenes of abomination and afterwards look each other in the face."

Not included in any regular order in the book in which he recorded the account of his travels, but on a separate page, he wrote the following:

"MEMORANDUM.

"Such was my lameness for several months after my coming to Moneyrea, that I could not visit the tombs of my fathers notwithstanding my strong desire so to do.

"But the 1st of February, 1821, I stopped at the meeting house, put up my horse, and went into the graveyard to spend an hour or two in the mansions of the dead. In solemn silence I passed from tomb to tomb, with eager steps, until I came to that under which lay the dust of my beloved parents. This drew many sighs from my heart, and tears from my eyes. But oh, how my heart was rejoiced when I read the character of my departed father, drawn on his tomb in a few words which I know to be the truth.

"'Sacred to the Memory of Jas. Mc Whir of Montogh, who departed this life Jan. 13th, 1800, aged 75 years, in whom Piety, Justice and Charity were remarkably united.'

"My Mother also, who had been long afflicted, was spoken of as being piously resigned to the will of her Heavenly Father and very charitable to the poor.

"This afforded me more pleasure than if they had bequeathed me a great worldly inheritance.

"And almost every day, I hear from their contemporaries who yet remain, something or other in their praise.

"A few days ago an old lady of more than 70, said to me, 'Mr. Mc Whir you have traveled a great deal and seen many places and known many persons, will you answer me one question?' I said I would if I could. 'Did you in all your travels ever know two better men than James and Robert Mc Whir?'"

The number of persons taught by the subject of this sketch, especially those who afterwards became prominent in the affairs of the State and in other parts, is enormous, and a list of them, if it were possible to make one, would be interesting.

In August, 1872, Mr. William Hughes, County Surveyor of Liberty County, gave to the Hinesville Gazette, a list of the scholars who attended the Sunbury Academy in the year 1807, when Dr. Mc Whir was the principal of that Academy, and Mr. James E. Morris was his assistant.

Mr. Hughes mentioned the fact that at that time he and Judge William Law were the only survivors of those mentioned, when the latter was 79 years old, and the former about four score years.

The following is the list:

Abigail James, Adam Somersal, Alex. McIntosh, Alex. McIver, Am'da Axson, Ann Maxwell, Ann Myers, Ann Peacock, Artemas Baker, Audley Maxwell, Caroline Fabian, Edward Footman, Elizabeth McCall, Elizabeth Jones, Elizabeth Peacock, Elizabeth Wilkins, George Forrester, Hannah Maxwell, Hester Elliott, Hester McIntosh, Harriet Croft, James Baker, James Bowen, James Bulloch, James McCall, James McIntosh, Jr., John Baker, John Bulloch, John Caldwell, John Glass, John Jones, John Law, John Maxwell, John McIntosh, John Pomeroy, Lach'n Cuthbert, Lach'n McIntosh, Louisa Croft, Louis Latouche, Lucretia Cook, Maria Baillie, Mary Axson, Mary Law, Mary McIntosh, Mary Osgood, Mathilda Elliott, Peter Goulding, Preserved Alger, Richard Cuyler, Richard Pomeroy, Samuel Lines, Sarah Maxwell, Sarah Wood, Susan Myers, Thomas Baillie, Thomas Baker, Thomas McCall, Thomas Stone, Thomas Winn, Wm. Baker, Wm. Cooper, Wm. Cuyler, Wm. Grumball, Wm. Hughes, Wm. James, Wm. Jasper, Wm. Law, Wm. McIntosh.

In 1824 he was persuaded that the need of the people of East Florida in the matter of religious instruction was great, and he went to St. Augustine where he organized a church and ordained elders, and finally had the pleasure of seeing a suitable house of worship erected there. Then, always on the lookout for the opportunity of laboring in the cause of spreading the Gospel, he supplied vacant churches in the Counties of Bryan, Liberty, and McIntosh from 1827 to 1835.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him in 1832 by Franklin College, now the University of Georgia.

In 1838 he sold his Springfield home in Liberty County; and from that time to 1847 he resided in Bryan County with his very dear friend Major William J. McIntosh. In the last named year he moved to Savannah and fixed his home in the family of his step-grandson, Edward J. Harden.

Until within a short time of his death he performed the duties of a volunteer colporteur of the American Tract Society. It has been said of him that "until within the last ten or fifteen years of his life he preached occasionally, chiefly in destitute places, and at his decease he was probably the oldest Presbyterian minister in the United States." The same writer mentioned this interesting fact: "His correspondence * * * was very extensive, and embraced within its range several distinguished men, amongst them Gen. Washington, Dr. Chalmers, and Sir John Sinclair."

Dr. Mc Whir died at the residence of Roswell King, Esq., in Liberty County on Friday, the 31st of January, 1851, in the ninety-second year of his age. For many years before his death he was affectionately called by those who knew him "Father Mc Whir."

His will was made on the 11th of December, 1847, in Savannah, and the preliminary item is in these characteristic words: "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, three Persons but one God, I, William Mc Whir, Minister of the everlasting Gospel of Christ, and Member of the Old School General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Do make this my last will and testament." The first regular item is "I commit my spirit to God who gave it and my body to the earth, hoping for a glorious resurrection through the merits of His Son Jesus Christ, and desiring that my body be buried at Sunbury with my dearly beloved wife, in a manner not too ostentatious, to be judged of by my Executors, the place of interment to be west of the resting-place of the late Dr. (Adam) Alexander, about eight or ten paces."

Within a year or two after his death a monument was erected over the resting place of husband and wife, with suitable inscriptions for both. His inscription is here given:

Sacred
to the memory of
Rev. William Mc Whir, D. D.,
who was born in the County Down, Ireland,
and died in Liberty County, Ga.,
31st January, 1851.

In 1783 he came to the United States
and settled at Alexandria, Va.,
whence he removed to Georgia
about the year 1793.

His long and eventful life
was devoted to the cause of Christianity
and education, and his labors to promote these objects
were eminently successful.